

# Clemson University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

**Policy Number: 4.6**

**Policy Title: Fish Health Surveillance Program (FHSP)**

## **Section 1: Purpose**

The intent of this policy is to provide guidance on monitoring the health and wellbeing of aquatic cultures.

## **Section 2: Scope**

All aquatic cultures maintained by Clemson personnel for university related teaching, research, testing, or demonstration must adhere to this policy.

## **Section 3: Policy**

The health maintenance of all aquatic cultures is the responsibility of the PI.

All cultures, regardless of purpose, must be monitored daily for morbidity and mortality.

Fish cultures used for research, display, demonstration, or behavioral teaching should:

- Report fish that appear unhealthy or injured to the Attending Veterinarian (AV) or his designee
- Isolate and treat or euthanize fish that appear unhealthy or injured

Fish cultures expected to be housed for more than one year and used to produce off spring or embryos for experimental use or culture replenishment should:

- Report fish that appear unhealthy or injured to the Attending Veterinarian (AV) or his designee
- Isolate and treat or euthanize fish that appear unhealthy or injured
- Conduct initial and routine periodic pathogen screening
- Consult diagnostic laboratories or fish health specialists when needed to assist in health management.

Acceptable treatments for illness or injury should be outlined in an SOP or performed at the direction of a veterinarian or fish health specialist.

Plans for surveillance should be made in consultation with the AV and/or his designee during protocol pre-review. An SOP detailing the process for health surveillance is recommended. Additional numbers of fish should be requested in the initial AUP to accommodate health surveillance activities.